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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [UNSC](#) [AF](#)
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE ON TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR UN SENIOR
CIVILIAN FOR AFGHANISTAN

REF: STATE 1001

Classified By: AMBASSADOR ALEX WOLFF, FOR REASONS 1.4 B/D

¶1. (C) Summary: Per reftel, USUN met with the UK, French, German, Canadian and Italian delegations to discuss the proposal that Secretary General Ban Ki-moon appoint Lord Paddy Ashdown as the new Special Representative to the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Senior Envoy for Afghanistan.

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Upon the conclusion of the discussion, it was decided that 1) those delegations that wished to do so would approach the Secretary General and the Secretariat in an informal manner

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to support Ashdown; and 2) upon receipt of a final Terms of Reference agreed upon by the UN and other key capitals, the group would reconvene to discuss next steps, including outreach to other Security Council members. End Summary.

¶2. (C) French Deputy Permanent Representative Jean-Pierre Lacroix said France fully supported Ashdown's nomination, and would lobby other Council members to support him. He said it will be important to ensure that China and Russia are fully comfortable with the nomination, and said it was premature to meet collectively with Ban to press for Ashdown's nomination. Canadian Permanent Representative McNee, Italian Deputy Permanent Representative Mantovani and UK Deputy Permanent Representative Pierce agreed. German Permanent Representative Matussek said Germany will not be in front in support of Ashdown, although it does not oppose his nomination. Given the lack of agreement on collectively approaching Ban, it was decided that delegations would express their support in an individual and informal manner to the Secretary General and the Secretariat.

¶3. (C) Italy and Germany said they had concerns regarding certain aspects of the Terms of Reference (TORs). As an example, Italy said it was unclear whether the proposed "consultative board of heads of key international organizations and/or heads of missions of major donor countries" would supplant or duplicate the efforts of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board (JCMB). Italy and France noted that certain details included in the TORs were not reflected in the mandate of the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA), which Ashdown will head as SRSG. France added that Ban was still not completely comfortable with the TORs. It was agreed that upon receipt of a final Terms of Reference agreed upon by the UN and other

key capitals, the group would reconvene to discuss next steps, including outreach to other Security Council members.
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